

# How to Organize and Conduct a Mission Band



By GERTRUDE M. COGAN



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## How to Begin.

Gather the children up to 14 or 16 years of age. (Have pastor and Sunday school teachers announce beforehand and give invitation for a "story telling hour.") Open with hymn they can sing, short Scripture lesson and prayer. Then tell them an interesting missionary story. Let it be a true story and make it very impressive. Ask them a few questions at the close to make sure the lesson had its effect, and immediately have them stand and join in the Mission Band Prayer:

Jesus bless the little children,  
All the children of the world;  
Black and yellow, red and white,  
All are precious in Thy sight,  
Jesus bless the little children of the world.  
Amen.

Let them be seated again. Ask them "How many would like to have a meeting like this every week? Raise your hands." Then fix time for next meeting. Fix both day and hour as, Friday afternoon 4 to 5 o'clock; or, Saturday afternoon 3 to 4 o'clock, and so on, deciding upon whatever day and hour you see will suit best. When the time for the next meeting is announced, have them march out singing a verse or two of some hymn which they themselves have chosen.

## First Meeting.

Be on hand early. It is well to have a committee from the W. M. S. to help at each meeting by coming early and remaining to encourage good order among the children. Greet them with a smile as they come in. Have your secretary seated at a table near the door and have the children give her their names as they pass on to their seats. Begin with bright hymn, short Scripture with comments pointing out the blessed truths, and prayer. Then a story again. Let it be an Indian story. (Because the Indian is usually the most popular subject to begin with.) Immediately after the story have them stand and join in the Mission Band Prayer.

Then say "I wonder if any of you were so thoughtful as to bring some pennies or nickels to the Mission Band. If you brought any we have just the place to put them for Jesus." Have in readiness an Indian tepee or canoe, and at this point bring it out and place it before them on the table. "You know our Mission Band is going to help the missionaries teach the Indians about Jesus. The missionaries go out to the Indians, and we give some of our money to help them in their work. Isn't that beautiful? Now in a few minutes you can put your offerings in this tepee for the Indians. But first we will learn to sing a verse." Teach them the following lines to the tune of "There's Not a Friend Like the Lowly Jesus:"

Jesus we bring these little offerings, one by  
one, one by one;

Take them and save the Indian children,  
one by one, one by one.

Help them to learn about their Savior, Jesus  
take them by the hand,

Lead them and lead us all to heaven, one by  
one, one by one.

When they have learned the verse have them march past the table singing as they drop their offerings. Keep the organ playing as they pass on, and as they reach the door stop for the following little closing service. Here say, "Thank you boys and girls for this offering; our missionaries will be glad for this help. Next meeting, and for two more or perhaps six more after that, we will learn about the Indians, and give our offerings to them." Announce exact time of next meeting and invite them to come again and bring their friends. Leaders then say, "God bless you children;" they answer, "God bless you teachers;" all together say, "Good By."

### Boys and Girls in Japan.

Take up this subject when your have finished your series on the North American Indian. Proceed with the same opening exercise and order of meeting. Arrange to have material for a number of weekly stories or lessons on this topic. Make them realistic and see that points are made for Kindergarten work in Japan. Have on the table to receive their offerings, the little steamer trunk prepared for this purpose. Hold it up before them and say, "Now in our meetings for several weeks we are going to send our offerings to help the Japanese boys and girls learn about Jesus. 'This little steamer trunk will hold the gifts that will go across the ocean. You see here is a station marked Yokohama; that is where steamships bringing missionaries and money to help their work, stop, and it is marked on the trunk. So we will put our offerings for the Kindergarten work in Japan right into this little trunk. Some of the children in Japan call their kindergarten a Jesus school. Won't it be lovely to help them have more Jesus schools?"

At this point have them drop their offerings into the trunk as they march by, singing the verse with second line, "Take them and save

the Japanese children," etc. Use again the little closing service.

### **Colored Mission Schools.**

When you have finished a series on Japan and Japanese Kindergarten work, have in readiness a series of stories and lessons on the work and needs among Colored people. Have a little log cabin to receive offerings—can be made of cardboard and crayoned to look like log cabin. Explain that these offerings go to help colored missions in Kentucky. Change second line of verse to "Take them and save the Negro children," etc. Close in usual way.

### **Boys and Girls in China.**

Have series of lessons and stories on this next, dwelling upon the benefits and needs of Kindergarten work for Chinese children. Open and close meeting in usual way. Make the story or lesson period very bright and effective. Use again the little steamer trunk for the offering period, changing second line in verse to, "Take them and save the Chinese children," etc. Make sure that every child understands that these offerings will go to help Kindergarten work in China.

### **Day Nursery in San Francisco.**

Make this a series of stories and lessons about foreign children and their fathers and mothers who have come to live in America. Cultivate a sympathy and Christian love toward these new neighbors. Tell the story of our Day Nursery in San Francisco, and have a little cradle to receive offerings for this Nursery. Change second line of verse to, "Take them and save the Nursery children," etc.

## Reviews.

When through with these different fields, have a review meeting on each one. Drill them thoroughly on each of these fields to which their offerings go. See that they can tell something about each field, and at the end of the quarter or year, that they can state how much their Mission Band has given to each field.

### Story and Lesson Material—Grading.

Grade your Mission Band into classes and divisions if possible. This is the ideal way, and should be done wherever the teachers and leaders can be secured. Then you will of course adapt your story and lesson material to suit the age of the child. If you have them all in one class, the following materials furnish the best help:

Missionary Object Lessons on the North American Indian.—A set of real objects, tepee, hominy kettle, bow and arrow, etc., etc., with book containing series of good stories. Price \$1.50.

Missionary Object Lessons on Japan.—Contains boy doll, girl doll, Japanese house and many objects used in the Japanese home; with book of excellent stories. Price \$1.50.

Missionary Object Lessons on Africa.—Also contains boy doll and girl doll, hammock, tomtom, battle-ax, grass hut and other native objects, also with book of stories. Price \$1.50.

These object lesson sets are just the thing for instruction in our Mission Bands since some of their offerings go toward our Winnebago Indian Mission, Kindergarten Work in Japan, and Colored Mission Schools.

For instruction on the other fields toward which they give, Kindergarten Work in China, and the Day Nursery in San Francisco, there are excellent helps in "A Trip to China," price 5 cents, containing material for several meetings; China Picture Stories, 30 cents, contain-

ing five large pictures with story about each one; Chinese Characters, 75 cents, a set of rag dolls and pamphlet with story of each of the seven characters. Immigration Picture Stories will help cultivate sympathy for the work in San Francisco if adapted to conditions surrounding our work there. This is a series of five pictures and a story about each one; price 30 cents.

Books.—There are each year special Home and Foreign Mission Books prepared for boys and girls. These are also used in the Mission Band especially in the older grades.

Procure any or all of the above material from Publication Board, Reformed Church Building, 15th and Race Sts., Philadelphia.

Everyland is a finely illustrated monthly magazine for boys and girls and for leaders. Subscription price \$1.00. 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

### **Funds.**

If desirable let the offerings at every fifth meeting go into a fund for local Mission Band helps and materials; or give a public missionary program and take up an offering. "Just Plain Peter" is a good entertainment. From Missionary Education Movement, 156 Fifth Ave., New York; price 25 cents. (Write our headquarters for other entertainment suggestions.)

Let all other funds go toward the "Mission Band Fields," namely, Kindergarten Work in Japan, Kindergarten Work in China, Our Winnebago Mission, Day Nursery in San Francisco and Colored Mission Schools. Send these monies quarterly if possible, if not, be sure to get them in before the 1st of April each year. Send to the Treasurer of the Classical W. M. S. and distinctly state that it is for the "Young People's Budget." This is the term used to designate the monies of the Bands for the above named objects. Make sure that you designate your remittance by this term and



the money will go without delay to the objects for which it is given.

### **Hand Work.**

Some of the children will enjoy now and then a "Work Meeting," or some work to do between meetings. Map drawing, copying pictures as papoose cradle, Indian village, Japanese house, etc.; cutting patterns for Indian tepees, African hut, Chinese Pagoda, coloring them and folding them into shape; cutting, folding and pasting bright colored art paper into tiny Xmas trees and ornaments and sending them to the mission fields. A good book on hand work is "Missionary Helps for Juniors" by Misses Applegarth and Prescott; price 29c postpaid, Committee on United Study, West Medford, Mass.

### **Reports.**

Report the work of your Band to the Secretary of Young People's Work in the Classical W. M. S. Invite her to visit your Band. Send samples of the best hand work of the children to the classical convention for exhibit. Label each piece with the name and age of the child who made or prepared it. Include book reviews, and papers on missionary subjects, written by your older boys and girls.

### **The Age Question.**

Sometimes, 14, 15 and 16 year-olds hesitate to join in with younger ones. The difficulty may often be overcome by using the older ones as teachers and leaders of classes. We strongly recommend that the older ones who are fitted for it be placed in charge of classes in any case: it is the ideal way to train leaders for the Mission cause. If the age question is a serious problem with you, and cannot be solved in the Mission Band, you can form a Circle with functions to suit their needs, but

keep them interested and giving to the same fields.

We urge the organization of girls 16 and over into Young Women's Missionary Auxiliaries, and the boys that age or younger into Boy's Brotherhoods.

Why put them into separate organizations? Because it is the psychological thing to do at this period of their development.

The Boy's Brotherhood is just the thing for the spiritual, moral and social development of the adolescent boy. Write for information to Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, Hale Bldg., Philadelphia.

For information on Young Women's Missionary Auxiliary write W. M. S. headquarters.

### **If You Have No Classical W. M. S.**

Where Bands, Circles, Auxiliaries, etc., are organized in territory not having Classical or Synodical W. M. S., reports can be sent to the General Secretary of Young People's Work, and monies can be sent to the General Treasurer of the W. M. S. You will find their addresses in the Outlook of Missions.

### **Tepee, Cradle, Etc., For the Offerings.**

If you write W. M. S. headquarters they may be able to supply you with these.

### **A Word to the Girl Who Has Nothing to Start With.**

I was once that girl myself, and I know. If you write us we can send you a small packet of helps free that will keep you going for a while. Let nothing keep you from having a Mission Band if you have the heart for it. My own little Band was in a rural district and the children walked miles over the hills in the hot summer afternoons; I walked over a mile. Sometimes we were so tired we couldn't do very much. And we could only keep up meetings for a while during just the summer

months. We could give very little money and we had no literature except "Our Mission Band Helper," the tiny paper published at that time. I was the only leader, and a mere child myself. We would not be considered a very efficient Band. Did it pay? A thousand times it has paid me that I ever undertook that bit of work; and I can see results in the lives of the others. Have just the best graded Band possible, with plenty of helpers and plenty of literature. Be the most efficient in every way. *But if circumstances are such that you have no help, and cannot have all the literature, do the best you can;* write us for the free helps and go ahead in the strength of the Master. Seek first His Kingdom, and these other things will later be added unto you. ---Matt. 6-33.

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The Woman's Missionary Society of General Synod of the Reformed Church in the U. S., 240 S. Washington St., Tiffin, O., and Reformed Church Building, 15th and Race Sts., Philadelphia, Pa

